



Southern Gulf  
NRM



***E-BEEF SMART FARMING***  
*in Northern Queensland*

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**



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*At the end of the three-year Project, the graziers who have kindly offered their property for demonstration purposes; field days; and provided access to their data, will become the owners of the equipment.*

## 1. Demonstration Property

Are you an enthusiastic grazier interested in your property becoming an E-Beef Smart Farm Demonstration Property?

Are you keen to:

- utilise walk-over weighing technology to record weekly cattle performance?
- access regular remote sensed modelled pasture data to assist in making critical grazing management decisions?
- undertake a confidential business analysis to assess the impact of those decisions on your profitability?

Do you implement a high standard of grazing and herd management practices?

Are you prepared to read, understand and manage stock according to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle – refer to Appendix A?

Are you willing to share your experience with other producers as a contribution to improving industry wide performance?

demonstrate how the enterprise can benefit from aligning pasture performance with cattle performance and the impact it has on business performance.

The technologies being implemented on *E-Beef Smart Farms* will be remote walk-over-weighing auto-drafting technology; remote sensing modelled pasture data using satellite technology; and business analysis through the AgriHive Farnecco benchmarking system.

Individual cattle liveweights will be averaged over a week and reported weekly. The modelled pasture data will be available weekly or fortnightly. The timeliness of the data will allow the manager to make critical decisions earlier. Business analysis will demonstrate the links between management decisions and their impact on profitability using current stock values.

At the end of the three-year Project, the graziers who have kindly offered their property for demonstration purposes; field days; and provided access to their data, will become the owners of the equipment.

To be considered as a potential *E-Beef Smart Farm Demonstration Property*, please submit a completed **Expression of Interest – Demonstration Property** application.

**Submissions close Wednesday 19 December 2018.**

The *E-Beef Smart Farm Project* is seeking Expressions of Interest from motivated graziers who are willing to host a demonstration property and are implementing sound management practices.

The project is being implemented across three NRM regions – Southern Gulf NRM, Northern Gulf RMG and Desert Channels Qld. Each NRM region will establish two *E-Beef Smart Farm* demonstration properties– six demonstration properties in total.

The project will aim to ensure *E-Beef Smart Farms* are distributed in the north-west Queensland landscape and represent a diversity of land types and grazing systems. The *E-Beef Smart Farm Project* will combine multiple technologies to record and analyse the performance of cattle and pasture and the bearing this has on business performance on the demonstration properties. It will



## 2. Innovation Hub (learning group)

Are you a motivated grazer wanting to join an Innovation Hub (learning group)?

Do you want to stay up to date with the liveweights and satellite data associated with the E-Beef Smart Farm Demonstration Property?

Do you want to apply those learnings to your own property and business?

As a member of the Innovation Hub you will:

- access weekly liveweight data from the Demonstration Property
- access regular remote sensed modelled pasture data from the Demonstration Property
- apply the knowledge you learn from the Demonstration Property to your own situation
- use satellite data to monitor your own paddock or paddocks of similar land type
- select a mob or mobs of cattle in those paddocks to monitor their condition and value
- use acquired knowledge to make critical grazing management decisions earlier
- undertake a confidential business analysis to assess the impact of those decisions on your profitability using the AgriHive Farmecco platform.

Each *E-Beef Smart Farm* will have an associated Innovation Hub or learning group. Members of the Innovation Hubs will have access to the weekly cattle weight data and fortnightly modelled pasture data and be kept up to date with critical grazing management decisions. Hub participants can apply their learnings from the Smart Farm data to their own operations and analyse their own management decisions on their profitability confidentially through the AgriHive Farmecco platform.

If you are keen to become a member of an *E-Beef Smart Farm* Innovation Hub, **please submit a completed** Expression of Interest – Innovation Hub application. Please note, places are limited.

**Submissions close Wednesday 19 December 2018.**



## 3. Technology trial

Are you an innovative producer wanting to trial new tools or technology that will impact the long-term sustainability of your land and your business?

Will the technology assist in implementing grazing best management practice and enhance pastures, groundcover, soils, land condition, herd efficiency or business profitability and adaptability?

There is limited funding available for producers to trial new tools, apps, technologies that will lead to sustainable grazing land management. To be eligible the producer must be prepared to provide a brief report and be available to attend one or two Southern Gulf NRM grazing events to present their findings to other producers.

If you are interested in trialling innovative technology, please submit a completed **Expression of Interest – Technology Trial** application.

**Submissions close Thursday 31 January 2019.**



## Appendix A.

### Animal Husbandry

As the Project involves the Use of Animals for a Scientific Purpose, each E-Beef Smart Farm demonstration property will be required to read, understand and manage stock according to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle.

Cattle will be run under existing commercial conditions and each demonstration property is expected to adhere to good husbandry principles that meet the basic physiological and behavioural needs of cattle in the demonstration paddocks. You would not be expected to make major changes to your cattle management, simply that you provide:

- a level of nutrition adequate to sustain good cattle health and welfare
- cattle access to sufficient water of suitable quality to meet physiological needs
- social contact with other cattle (i.e. they run in a mob together)
- cattle with sufficient space to stand, lie and stretch their limbs and perform normal patterns of behaviour
- handling facilities, equipment and procedures that minimise stress to the cattle
- procedures to minimise the risk of pain, injury or disease
- appropriate treatment including humane killing if necessary
- ways to reduce the risk of predation
- reasonable precautions against extremes of weather and the effects of natural disasters

- selection and breeding of cattle appropriate for the environment and the level of planned herd management to be provided
- assessment of the need to undertake any husbandry procedures that may result in significant short-term pain against alternative strategies for the long-term welfare of the cattle
- herd management in a manner that reduces the impact of husbandry procedures and minimises risks to cattle welfare.

E-Beef Smart Farm managers are expected to monitor that they are following the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle within their everyday management and husbandry.

Station staff will be asked to visually inspect cattle, infrastructure and water regularly as part of the commercial operation. During these inspections staff will also check there is an adequate supply of water, clean the water troughs as required, ensure all fences are in good repair and visually appraise the condition of the pasture. Staff will also inspect the cattle to monitor their health and welfare during these visits. Station staff will be asked to use the automated weekly cattle liveweight data to indicate warning signs of ill-health, poor performance or other potential welfare concerns and use photographs captured at 9am, midday and 3pm by the WOW remote camera to monitor trough water level and visually assess cattle status. Station staff will be shown how to use pasture greenness data to anticipate changes in pasture quantity and quality and potential implications for cattle welfare.



Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
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E-Beef  
A Smart Farming Partnership

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

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